



# Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'  
Current Employment Statistics Survey  
**Series 2: Regional & Sectoral Employment**

Series 2, Issue 110

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## Highlights

- ◆ Data in this series are not seasonally adjusted and exhibit short-term volatility from fluctuations in holidays, weekends, weather and other seasonal factors. Estimates for the most recent month are preliminary.
- ◆ For the second time in the past three months, Northern Virginia's HC&SA sector enjoyed very strong employment growth. In April, this region created 1,300 new HC&SA jobs. At the same time, Richmond's HC&SA sector added 200 new jobs during the month. Meanwhile, the Rest of Virginia experienced its third consecutive month of positive employment growth after adding 100 new jobs in April. On the other hand, Hampton Roads lost 400 HC&SA jobs during the month.
- ◆ Ambulatory Health Care Services enjoyed their fifth consecutive month of positive employment growth in April. In fact, this employment growth has accelerated with the addition of 1,600 new jobs during the month. Meanwhile, Social Assistance experienced its third consecutive month of positive employment growth after creating 800 new jobs in April. However, Nursing & Residential Care Facilities and Hospitals lost 1,100 and 100 jobs, respectively, during the month.

*Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Self-employed persons, including health professionals in private practice, are not included.*

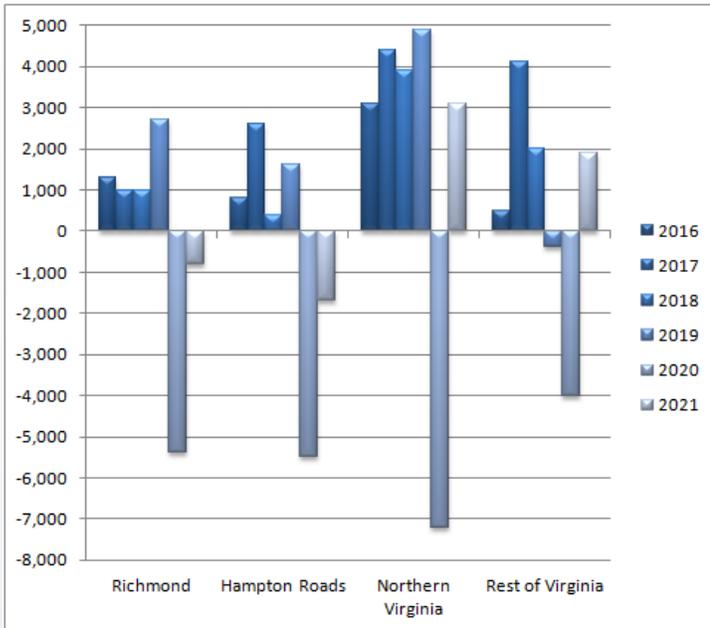
## Data in Brief

Not Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Apr. 2020	Jan. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Virginia</b>							
Total Nonfarm	3,618.2	3,842.0	3,864.9	3,893.9	7.6%	5.5%	9.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	409.5	440.8	443.4	444.6	8.6%	3.5%	3.3%
<b>Hampton Roads</b>							
Total Nonfarm	701.4	753.0	757.3	760.3	8.4%	3.9%	4.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	86.5	91.5	90.8	90.4	4.5%	-4.7%	-5.2%
<b>Northern Virginia</b>							
Total Nonfarm	1,353.7	1,444.0	1,452.0	1,467.6	8.4%	6.7%	13.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance	119.8	133.4	135.5	136.8	14.2%	10.6%	12.1%
<b>Richmond</b>							
Total Nonfarm	613.4	642.6	643.0	644.4	5.1%	1.1%	2.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	77.8	83.6	82.6	82.8	6.4%	-3.8%	2.9%
<b>Rest of Virginia</b>							
Total Nonfarm	949.7	1,002.4	1,012.6	1,021.6	7.6%	7.9%	11.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	125.4	132.3	134.5	134.6	7.3%	7.1%	0.9%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

\*Seasonally adjusted data are adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to account for weather and other seasonal changes. Since the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics does not provide seasonally adjusted data at this level, this series uses **non**-seasonally adjusted data exclusively. Seasonal variation may account for some of the variation in time series data. When comparing data in this series to other HWDC series or other publications it is important to note whether the data reported have been seasonally adjusted.

### Regional HC&SA Employment Growth, Level



**Figure 1: Annual & YTD Change in HC&SA Regional Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted, Full-Year Change for 2016-2020, Year-to-Date Change for 2021).**

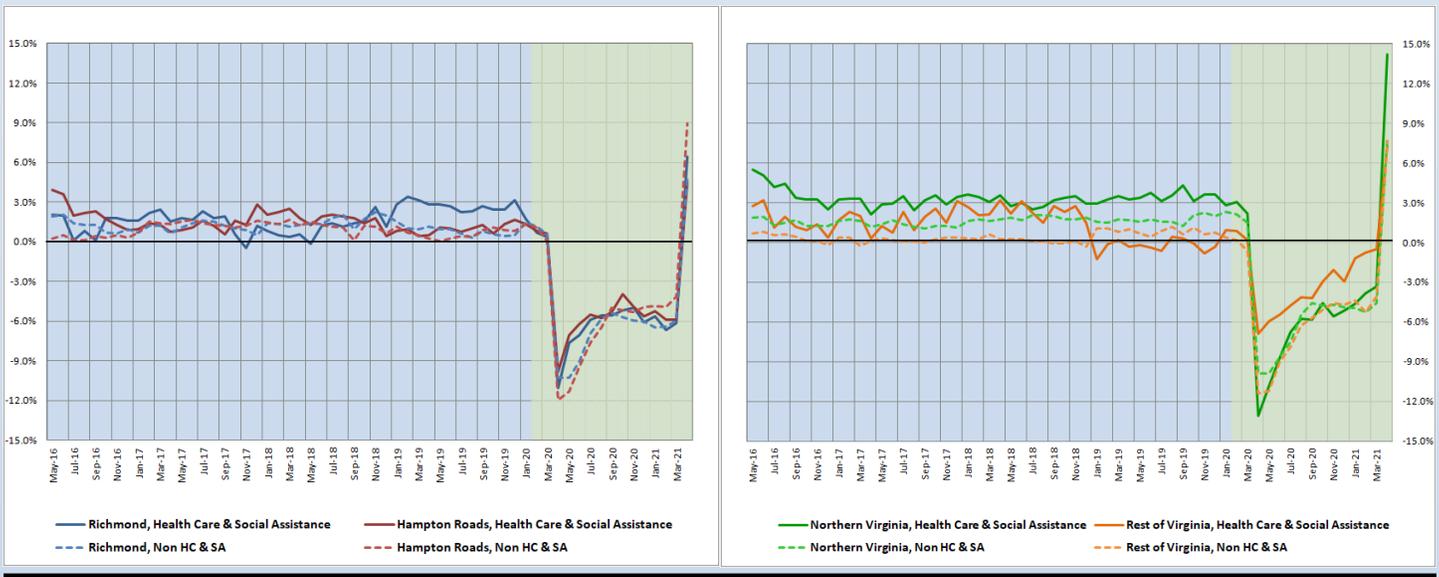
According to the preliminary data released on Friday, May 21, 2021, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Northern Virginia enjoyed a strong month of positive Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) employment growth in April. This region created 1,300 new HC&SA jobs in April, a gain that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 12.1%. In fact, this gain represents the second time in the past three months in which Northern Virginia’s HC&SA sector has experienced substantial employment growth. In February, Northern Virginia added an even more impressive 2,100 HC&SA jobs to the state’s economy. Thanks to these impressive gains, employment in Northern Virginia’s HC&SA sector has grown at a 10.6% annualized rate over the past three months.

Both Richmond and the Rest of Virginia experienced modest increases to HC&SA employment in April with gains of 200 and 100 jobs, respectively, during the month. As for Hampton Roads, this region saw HC&SA employment fall once again in April with the loss of 400 jobs during the month.

### Year-Over-Year Regional Employment Growth

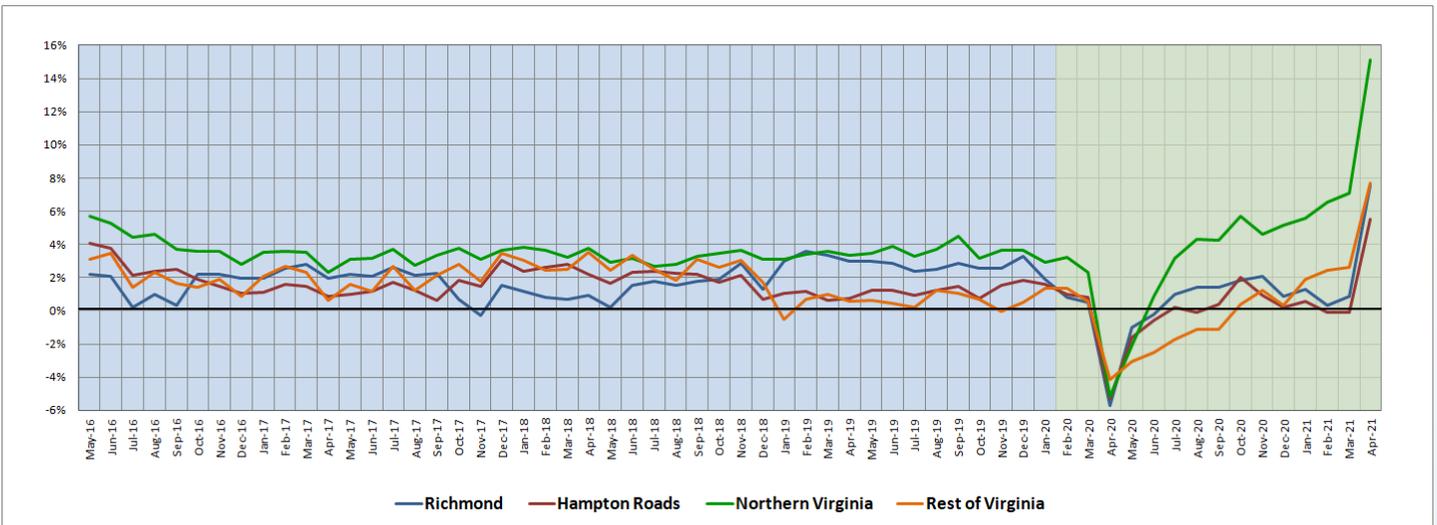
As the post-lockdown economic recovery period now encompasses an entire year of nearly continual employment growth, every region in Virginia experienced a dramatic increase to their respective year-over-year HC&SA employment growth rate in April. This increase was most substantial in Northern Virginia’s HC&SA sector, which saw its year-over-year employment growth rate rise from -3.35% to 14.19%. At the same time, Richmond’s HC&SA sector saw its own year-over-year employment growth rate increase from -6.14% to 6.43%, while the comparable growth rate for Hampton Roads grew from -5.91% to 4.51%. A similar increase occurred in the Rest of Virginia as its growth rate rose from -0.52% to 7.34%.

**Figure 2: Year-Over-Year Employment Growth (Not Seasonally Adjusted).**



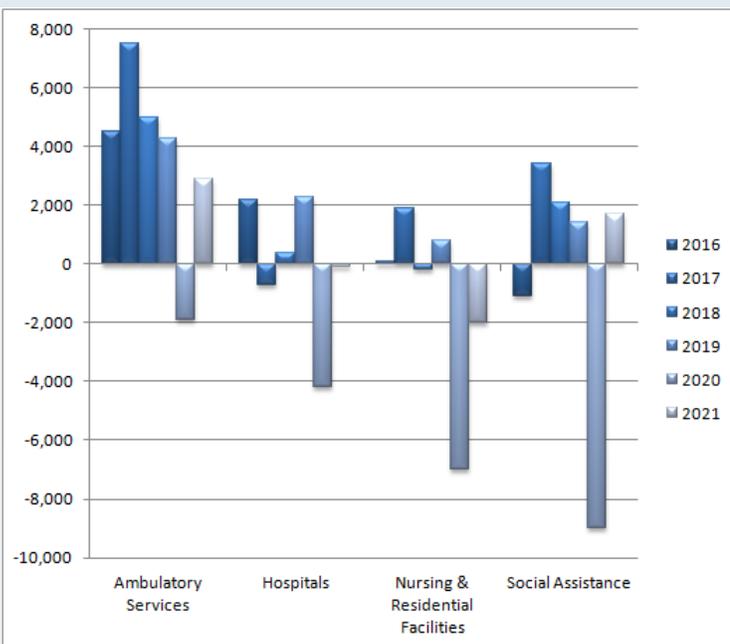
### 12-Month Average Employment Growth by Region

**Figure 3: 12-Month Moving Average, HC&SA Regional Employment Growth Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted).**



The upward spike in long-term regional HC&SA employment growth can also be observed, albeit in a slightly less dramatic fashion, through the increases in the 12-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving averages of Virginia’s four major metropolitan regions. Although these moving averages remained positive throughout most of the post-lockdown economic recovery period, the increases that occurred in April were still notable. Northern Virginia’s HC&SA sector saw its 12-month employment growth rate moving average double in April from 7.06% to 15.14%, while the comparable moving average for the Rest of Virginia tripled from 2.64% to 7.67%. Similar increases occurred in Richmond and Hampton Roads, which saw their respective 12-month HC&SA employment growth rate moving averages grow to 7.56% and 5.54% in April.

### Subsector Employment Growth



**Figure 4: Annual & YTD Change in HC&SA Subsector Employment (Not Seasonally Adjusted, Full-Year Change for 2016-2020, Year-to-Date Change for 2021).**

Employment growth in Ambulatory Health Care Services, even after five consecutive months of job gains, continues to accelerate in an impressive fashion. In April, this HC&SA subsector created 1,600 new jobs, a gain that represents the single largest monthly increase in Ambulatory Health Care Services employment since last October. Ambulatory Health Care Services has enjoyed the most impressive job growth during the post-lockdown economic recovery period. In fact, this subsector has experienced only one month of negative job growth in the past year. With 30,500 jobs created since last May, Ambulatory Health Care Services has fully recovered all of its pandemic-related employment losses from March and April of last year.

Social Assistance enjoyed its third consecutive month of positive employment growth after creating 800 jobs in April. However, Nursing & Residential Care Facilities and Hospitals lost 1,100 and 100 jobs, respectively, during the month.

### Distribution of Growth by Subsector

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Apr. 2020	Jan. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
<b>Virginia</b>							
Health Care & Social Assistance	409.5	440.8	443.4	444.6	8.6%	3.5%	3.3%
<i>Ambulatory Health Care Services</i>	163.5	191.2	192.4	194.0	18.7%	6.0%	10.4%
<i>Hospitals</i>	104.2	103.9	104.2	104.1	-0.1%	0.8%	-1.1%
<i>Nursing &amp; Residential Care Facilities</i>	74.0	71.4	70.9	69.8	-5.7%	-8.7%	-17.1%
<i>Social Assistance</i>	67.8	74.3	75.9	76.7	13.1%	13.6%	13.4%
<b>Hampton Roads</b>							
Health Care & Social Assistance	86.5	91.5	90.8	90.4	4.5%	-4.7%	-5.2%
<i>Hospitals</i>	21.7	21.2	21.2	21.2	-2.3%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Northern Virginia</b>							
Health Care & Social Assistance	119.8	133.4	135.5	136.8	14.2%	10.6%	12.1%
<i>Ambulatory Health Care Services</i>	55.9	67.6	68.8	70.0	25.2%	15.0%	23.1%
<i>Hospitals</i>	25.7	25.9	26.1	26.1	1.6%	3.1%	0.0%

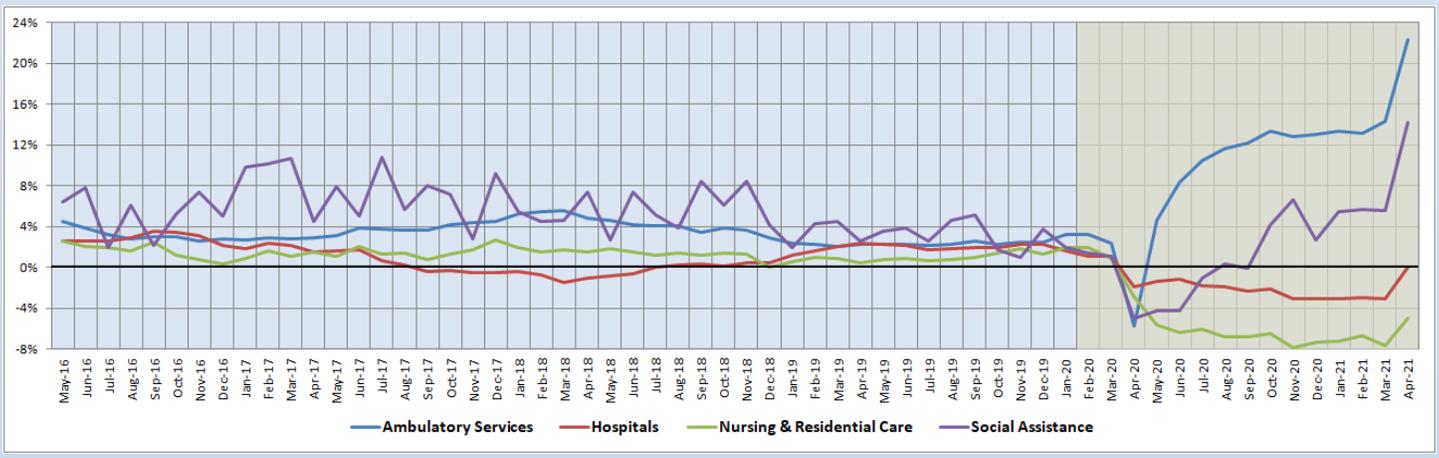
Preliminary estimates are italicized

The post-lockdown economic recovery period in Virginia remains bifurcated between the two HC&SA subsectors, Ambulatory Health Care Services and Social Assistance, that have seen employment rebound strongly over the past year and the other two HC&SA subsectors, Nursing & Residential Care Facilities and Hospitals, that have experienced no such growth. This dichotomy continued unabated in April. Whereas both Social Assistance and Ambulatory Health Care Services enjoyed one-month annualized employment growth rates that exceeded 10% in April, Nursing & Residential Care Facilities and Hospitals saw employment decline during the month.

### 12-Month Average Employment Growth by Subsector

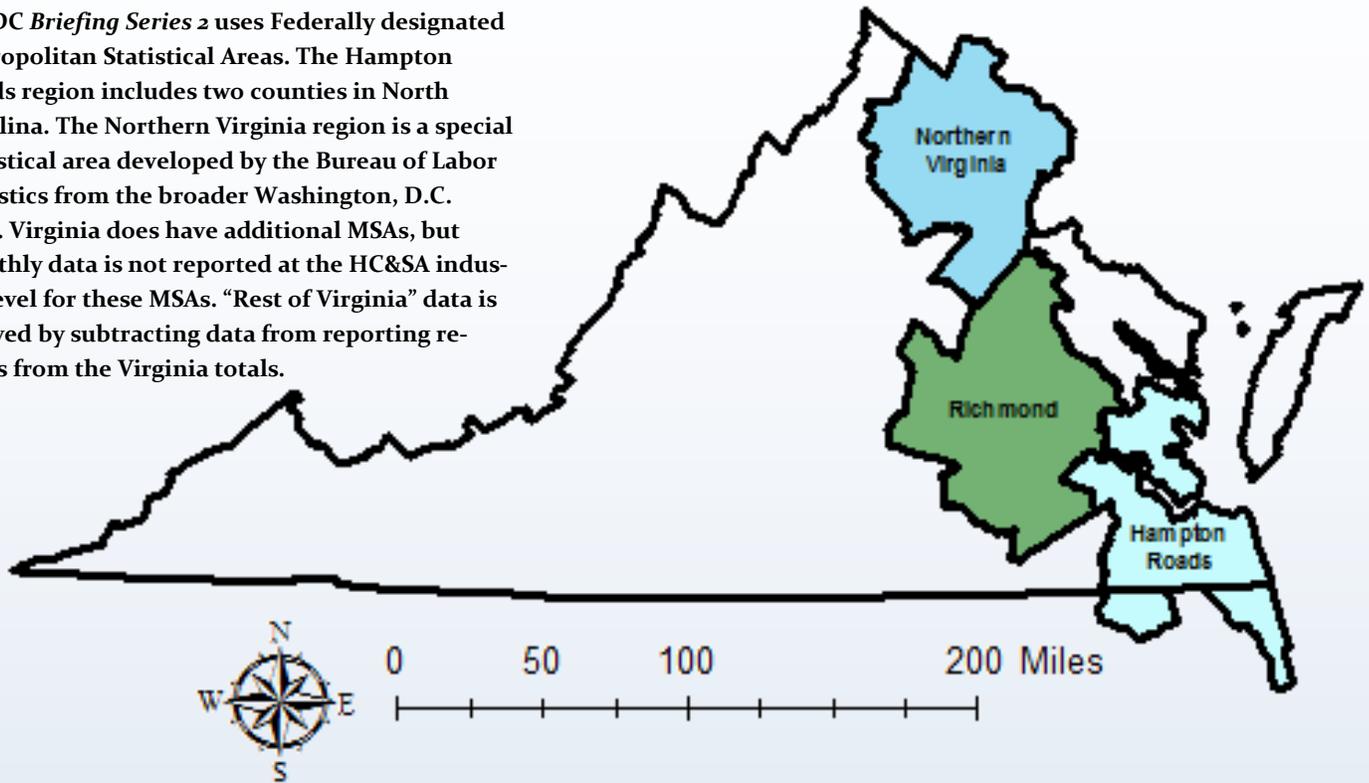
In March, Ambulatory Health Care Services saw their 12-month employment growth rate moving average reach a historic high of 14.36%. Regardless, Ambulatory Health Care Services shattered this record in April thanks to a dramatic increase in this moving average to 22.32%. Social Assistance also saw its own 12-month employment growth rate moving average reach a historic high in April after more than doubling from 5.62% to 14.19%. Meanwhile, 12-month employment growth rate moving average for Hospitals turned positive for the first time in one year, rising from -3.04% to 0.01% in April. The comparable moving average for Nursing & Residential Care Facilities also increased, but it remains negative at -5.00%.

**Figure 5: 12-Month Moving Average, HC&SA Subsector Employment Growth Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted).**



### Region Map

HWDC *Briefing Series 2* uses Federally designated Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The Hampton Roads region includes two counties in North Carolina. The Northern Virginia region is a special statistical area developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics from the broader Washington, D.C. MSA. Virginia does have additional MSAs, but monthly data is not reported at the HC&SA industry level for these MSAs. “Rest of Virginia” data is derived by subtracting data from reporting regions from the Virginia totals.



### Region Detail

Northern Virginia		Richmond		Hampton Roads	
<i>Northern VA, (Non-standard CES Area 94783)</i>		<i>Richmond, VA (MSA 40060)</i>		<i>Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC (MSA 47260)</i>	
<b>Counties:</b>	<b>Cities:</b>	<b>Counties:</b>	<b>Cities:</b>	<b>Counties:</b>	<b>Cities:</b>
Arlington	Alexandria	Amelia	Colonial Heights	Gloucester	Chesapeake
Clarke	Fairfax	Caroline	Hopewell	Isle of Wight	Hampton
Culpeper	Falls Church	Charles City	Petersburg	James City	Newport News
Fairfax	Fredericksburg	Chesterfield	Richmond	Mathews	Norfolk
Fauquier	Manassas	Dinwiddie		Surry	Poquoson
Loudoun	Manassas Park	Goochland		York	Portsmouth
Prince William		Hanover			Suffolk
Rappahannock		Henrico		<i>Currituck, NC</i>	Virginia Beach
Spotsylvania		King William		<i>Gates, NC</i>	Williamsburg
Stafford		New Kent			
Warren		Powhatan			
		Prince George			
		Sussex			

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### About the Data

Data in this report are from the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics program. The CES program surveys about 143,000 businesses and government agencies monthly. Unless otherwise noted, this series uses data that are not seasonally adjusted. Seasonal variations related to weather, holidays, weekends, seasons and other predictable variations are apparent in the data. Short-term changes may be related to seasonal changes rather than underlying trends. Data from recent months is preliminary and subject to revision in future releases from the CES. Revisions will be reported in future editions of this series. Unless otherwise noted, the CES data presented in this series:

#### **Includes:**

- ◆ Data on employed individuals drawing a paycheck (payroll employees).
- ◆ All employees, regardless of role, occupation or hours worked.
- ◆ HC&SA employees in the private sector only.
- ◆ Persons employed by health professionals in private practice.
- ◆ Both government and private sector workers in nonfarm employment data.

#### **Does not include:**

- ◆ Self-employed workers or volunteers, including health professionals in private practice.
- ◆ HC&SA employees in the public sector. (These are counted as government workers in monthly reports).
- ◆ Information on hours worked or the quality of employment.
- ◆ Government workers in HC&SA level data. (Government workers, regardless of occupation and role, are classified as public sector employees).